

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

THE JAMES MADISON PROJECT
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

and

KADHIM SHUBBER
FINANCIAL TIMES
1667 K Street, NW
Suite 825
Washington, D.C. 20006

Plaintiffs,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 19-2461

* * * * *

COMPLAINT

This is an action under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., as amended, to seek production of agency records sought by the plaintiffs The James Madison Project and Kadhim Shubber from the defendant Department of the Treasury (and its component entity).

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has both subject matter jurisdiction over this action and personal jurisdiction over the defendant pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

VENUE

2. Venue is appropriate under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff The James Madison Project (“JMP”) is a non-partisan organization established in 1998 to promote government accountability and the reduction of secrecy, as well as educating the public on issues relating to intelligence and national security.

4. Plaintiff Kadhim Shubber (“Shubber”) is the U.S. Legal and Enforcement Correspondent for the Financial Times, and is a representative of the news media.

5. Defendant Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) is an agency within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), and is in possession and/or control of the records requested by the plaintiffs that are the subject of this action. Treasury controls – and consequently serves as the proper party defendant for litigation purposes for – the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”).

COUNT ONE (OCC)

6. By letter dated June 7, 2018, JMP and Shubber (hereinafter referred to jointly as the “Requesters”) submitted a FOIA request to OCC.

7. By letter dated February 27, 2019, OCC issued a substantive response denying the FOIA request in reliance upon Exemption 5 and Exemption 8. The request was designated as Request Number 2018-00511-F.

8. The Requesters filed a timely administrative appeal of OCC’s denial.

9. By letter dated February 28, 2019, OCC acknowledged receipt of the appeal.

10. To date, no substantive response has been received by the Requesters from OCC regarding their administrative appeal. The Requesters have constructively exhausted all required administrative remedies and are entitled to seek judicial relief.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs The James Madison Project and Kadhim Shubber pray that this Court:

- (1) Order the defendant Department of the Treasury to process and release to the plaintiffs all responsive, non-exempt records;
- (2) Award reasonable costs and attorney's fees as provided in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E) and/or 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d);
- (3) Expedite this action in every way pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1657(a); and
- (4) Grant such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Date: August 14, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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